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IDA
INTELLIGENT DATA ANALYSIS

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Letter From the Editor

Dear Colleague:

Welcome to Volume 2(1) of Intelligent Data Analysis journal!

With this issue, we celebrate our anniversary and one year of success. During the last year, (between January 15, 1997 that the first issue of Intelligent Data Analysis (IDA) went live and December 31, 1997) IDA had over 13328 home page hits over the year (an average of 1110 per month). We have continuously received feedback and encouragements from people all over the world who have accessed the journal articles. I think this is great, and it demonstrates that electronic publishing is in demand.

Results of good research, is in most cases, some new and useful knowledge. But if this knowledge is not efficiently disseminated to researchers around the world, not only may it never be used, original researchers may never obtain any feedback from peers. Our goal in publishing this electronic journal is to facilitate the means for proper dissemination of knowledge and build upon our experience and feed back to create one of the best AI on-line journals in the world.

This issue consists of four articles. The first article by Bloedorn and Mani is about a system that has been developed for generating comprehensible user profiles that accurately capture user interest with minimum interaction. The article contains the results of evaluation of both traditional features based on weighted term vectors as well as subject features corresponding to categories which could be drawn from a thesaurus. The second article by Milatovic and Badiru discusses a new approach for fast estimation for the position of the modal concentration, and its value from the point of view of a unimodally distributed curves with a relatively high accuracy. Their approach is based on Inconclusive Graphics Skewness which could be useful in applications such as searching non-uniform distributions and qualitative distribution of data.

Inductive genetic programming has become an important area of research in the last 5–10 years. The article by Nikolaev and Slavov is an example that proposes an approach to the development of fitness functions for improving the search process in decision tree induction. The approach is based on a method so that the fitness landscape is made informative enough to enable the search process more efficient. The authors claim that their approach results in inducing decision trees with low syntactic complexity and high predictive accuracy. The last article by Kwan, Tsang and Borret is in the area of constraint satisfaction which is applicable to the planning and scheduling problems. This article introduces a new phase transition predictor which uses constraint graph information to achieve better predictions. The results demonstrate that the new predictor can perform better in sparsely constrained problems.

Finally, I would like to hear more from colleagues who are working in the field of Intelligent Data Analysis, and invite them to submit their work to this electronic journal that is dedicated to the field.

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Our Development team at Elsevier Science Inc. would also be glad to hear from the readers on how this journal can be further improved.

Best wishes,
A. Famili
Editor-in-Chief